THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the amendments proposed to be made are being worked out with a view to remove certain restrictive provisions which have lost relevance in the context of the liberalised Trade and Industrial Policies announced by the Government.

(c) A Bill is likely to be introduced shortly for this purpose.

(d) As a result of general exemptions granted under sections 26 (7), 28, 29 and 31 of Foreign exchange Regulations Act, 1973, to FERA companies, foreign investments in the country has been greatly facilitated.

Jute Production

1833. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether production targets of Jute have not been achieved during the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the production; and

(c) the steps taken to make good the shortage in the Jute Production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The target of production of 91.00 lakh bales of raw jute and mesta during the 1991-92 jute season is likely to be achieved.

(b) and (c). do not arise.

Cooperation with Israel in Defence Field

1834. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: KUMARI UMA BAHARI: SHRI SARAT CHADNRA PATTANAYAK: SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering the possibility of cooperation between India and Israel in the filed of defence;

(b) whether the areas of cooperation have been identified;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there has been any preliminary exchange of views between the two countries at any level in this regard;

(e) whether there is a possibility of exchanging defence equipment as well as military training missions between the two countries in the near future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) (a) to (c). No specific proposals of Defence cooperation between India and Israel are presently under consideration.

(d) to (f). In view of establishment of normal relations with Israel, no specific area of future cooperation can be ruled out.

Funds for Second Hooghly Bridge

1835. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has requested the Union Government to grant more financial assistance for

the construction of the second Hooghly Bridge; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGADISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The request is under consideration.

Investment of I.F.C

1836 SHRI SRENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state:

(a) the total capital invested in India by the International Finance corporation till date;

(b) the details of those twenty public sector companies in which more than sixty per cent capital has been invested by this Corporation;

(c) whether IFC has made any request to the Government to promote its activities in India;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to permit it to invest more capital in the country under its liberal economic policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The total IFC investment in India as on 31st December, 1991 stands at US $ 1056.8 million.

(b) IFC has not made investmentin any public sector companies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Government would welcome more investment by IFC in India.

Construction of By passes near N.H.No. 24

1837. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGAWAR:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bypasses constructed near National Highway No. 24 during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to widen and construct more bypasses near National Highway No. 24; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUFACE TRASPOSRT (SHRI JAGADISH TYTLER); (a) No bypass has been constructed near national Highway No. 24 during the last three years.

(b) and (c). The Government propose to construct bypasses out side Moradabad, Hapur and Sitapur on NH 24. Construction of Sitapur Bypass is in progress, while land acquisition is being carried out for Moradabad and Hapur Bypasses.

Welfare Schemes for Weavers of Uttar Pradesh

1838. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding implementation